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# A Tribute to Ian MacGillivray MD, FRCOG, FRCP

Regius Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Aberdeen 1965–1984

President of the International Society of Twin Studies 1980–1983

Founder and first Chairman of the Working Group on Multiple Pregnancy 1965

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Elizabeth Bryan

*President of the International Society for Twin Studies*

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My earliest memories of Professor MacGillivray go back to the 1970s when he and his wife, Edith, so fondly remembered by many of us, welcomed me as a new and apprehensive member of the world of twins at my first Multiple Pregnancy Workshop. That was only the first of many occasions on which I was truly grateful for his encouragement and friendship.

Few, if any, have been more loyal members than Ian MacGillivray of the ISTS as a whole and of the Working Group on Multiple Pregnancy in particular. He not only created and nurtured the Working Group but has continued ever since to support its meetings. His presence and cheerful encouragement has benefited us all, not least by the example he sets. In his eightieth year he drove out by himself to Italy to join the Assisi Workshop. Yet that was nothing compared to his solo trip to Zakopane, in Poland's Tatra Mountains, where he then joined a hair raising raft trip down the icy stretches of the Dunajec river.

Ian's own experience as a father of twins has always deepened his personal understanding of the significance of a multiple pregnancy and added to the quality of his rigorous research. It has also made him a particularly sympathetic listener and friend to all the parents in COMBO.

When Ian left Aberdeen for Bristol in 1984, Scotland's loss was England's gain. There, his particular interest in cerebral palsy in twins has continued to develop.

Testaments to the breadth of his interest in twins are to be seen in the two major textbooks that will long remain

classics of twin literature — *Human Multiple Reproduction* and *Twinning and Twins*. Three of his four co-authors will be at the Festag, Doris Campbell, Gerald Corney and Barbara Thompson. And I am quite sure that Professor Percy Nylander from Ibadan, Nigeria, who sadly died some years ago, will also be with us in spirit.

Wherever he goes, Ian MacGillivray continues to be an ambassador for twins. He has travelled the world with especially significant visits to South Africa, Jamaica and Australia. He has always had strong links with Africa and of course was responsible for the exciting Aberdeen/Nigerian partnership when collaborating with Percy Nylander on studies of placentation and zygosity which still represent landmarks in the literature on racial differences in the distribution of MZ and DZ twins.

The Festag at which this Festschrift will be presented is a very special gathering of Ian MacGillivray's friends and admirers in the International Society for Twin Studies from all over the world. The fact that every speaker's invitation was not only accepted but accepted with alacrity is itself a conspicuous mark of the esteem in which Ian MacGillivray is held. Another such indication is the tireless work of Professor Louis Keith, who was present at the first Workshop in Aberdeen, in creating this Festschrift.

There is a depth of warmth and a quality of study in the life and work of Professor Ian MacGillivray that all of us treasure and none of us could forget. We are grateful to him for his guidance, his generosity and his friendship. We look forward to many more years of his association with us.

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